

U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. today said, "If President Bush wants to cut something, it should be his tax cut plan. It is totally inappropriate because it will not help individual taxpayers, and it will not help struggling states—what you need for real economic stimulus. No responsible person would look at their dropping income and rising costs, then conclude that it's time to take a pay cut. That is essentially what the President is doing with this tax cut."

The House is scheduled to vote on a \$550 billion tax cut package tomorrow, which is expected to pass. It is smaller than the President's original proposal of more than \$700 billion in tax cuts, but larger than the \$350 billion Senate tax package.

"The median income in Chicago was about \$42,000 last year. Many residents of my district on the South Side of Chicago and in the South Suburbs made much less than that. People in my district won't even get a \$600 tax cut out of the plan. The President's plan DOES make sure the rich get the most out of his tax plan. Too many residents of the Second Congressional District are among the almost three million Americans who have lost private-sector jobs in the last two years. They need more than promises. They need concrete plans, like the kind Mr. Bush is rapidly implementing for the people of Baghdad.

"Individuals are not alone. States are suffering, too. Many of those same people in my district who could really use economic stimulus, are also anxiously waiting for state officials to figure out exactly how much funding will be available for their children's school. Illinois, like 38 other states and the District of Columbia, faces a budget shortfall. Governor Blagojevich was able to promise school districts an additional \$250 per student. We're still not sure how that's going to shake out, but we're still better off than states where there have been across the board cuts in education. But will Illinois have to warm to casinos to help make ends meet? Waiting for the federal government is turning out to be an even bigger gamble."

Jackson said, "If we can afford this massive tax cut, we can afford creative education, health care and employment plans for ALL Americans—not just the rich. This tax plan? Mr. Bush needs to cut it out!"